

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.
Mr. Ewing presented the report from the Select Committee, appointed to investigate the affairs of the Post Office, which was of so voluminous a character, that although nearly three hours were occupied in the reading of it, it was only partly gone through, when the Senate adjourned over. So far, in the details presented to-day, there is ample evidence to convict the Department, of those controlling it, of the most corrupt and wanton partisan expenditure. It is a repetition, but on an increased scale, of the numerous instances of those transactions, which claimed such grave attention last year. It would appear, that the Northern States are the chosen places, upon which the immense patronage of the Department is more directly brought to bear. One thousand three hundred and forty post masters are stated to have been removed from their employment, to make way for those principally whose connection with the press made it an object to secure them!

At Lowell, in Massachusetts, among other instances, the present post master, before obtaining the office, when applying for it, in lieu of the person who held it, represented to the proprietor of the Lowell Mercury, that if he was appointed, he would edit the paper without charge. He was appointed immediately, and thus afforded a positive proof that one editor, at least, profited by the Department. As to the twice and wrapping paper, so called, sent out at the public expense for private benefit, there would seem to be no end to the quantity, from the fact that on some occasions, bundles of letters contained therein, were discovered unpacked, untied, and therefore unattended to, although directed to Portland, in Maine: an incident, however, somewhat less black than that which was detected in your own post office—for the party receiving them had the grace to return them to the post office, for the purpose of being sent to their destination. It is unnecessary to enumerate the long account of frauds perpetrated in the shape of contracts and allowances. Suffice it to say, that whatever might be the proposals advertised by the post office, they were rendered nugatory in practice by an ingenious contrivance. Two bids always accompanied the proposals from the favored party. Thus, for the mail from New-York to Philadelphia, Mr. Reeside has the ostensible contract at \$6000, whilst there was another, under the head "improved," by which he receives \$10,000. Another also, proposed at \$7000, from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, with an "improved" bid at \$20,000 more, was accepted by the Postmaster General. In other words, these and similar contracts might be made losing ones. If the party did not perform services, easier to be understood than described, the contractor could be cut down to the terms of one bid forthwith, whilst in the other event, he would receive the favor of those who had these large allowances, to bestow. This, with statements without end, supported by the depositions of various parties, of extra allowances given for services never performed, forms part of the exposures to-day.—N. Y. American.

Washington, Jan. 29, 1835.
The proceedings of the Senate to-day, were full of interest. The House was almost deserted by the members, who thronged the Chamber. Mr. King presented the resolution of the legislature of Alabama, instructing the senators from that state to use their influence to expunge from the Journal of the Senate the resolution adopted by that body in relation to the conduct of the President in removing the public deposits from the Bank of the United States. Mr. King, of Alabama, and Mr. Benton, spoke in support of the object contemplated by the resolution, whereupon Messrs. Clay, Calhoun and Preston, bore down upon them in fine style. I can barely allude to one or two points in the latter part of this animated and important debate. Mr. Calhoun called upon the senators from Alabama and Missouri to bring in their resolution for the expurgation of the Journal. His curiosity was awakened to see how they would go about it. A fact could not be expunged, and the record of the Journal was the true record of a proceeding of this body. A law could be repealed, but a fact could not. The only way in which the object of the gentleman could be obtained, was to move a resolution which would be inconsistent with the principle adopted by the Senate, and to reverse the opinion expressed by the Senate, in regard to the conduct of the President. They must assume the principle that the Senate has no right to express any opinion upon the conduct of the President, and that the King of the democratic party can do no wrong. The dumb legislature of Bonaparte would then be exhibited here. The Senate might be expunged, but not the record of its proceedings.—Mr. Clayton's view was that to expunge a portion of the Journal, would be a suppression of the truth and the suggestion of a falsehood. The attempt to obliterate the record would be fruitless. We have all of us verified copies of the Journal. The senator from Alabama might fear out the condemned page from his copy, but he could not tear it out from the copies belonging to his neighbors. Mr. Benton spoke in loud condemnation of the whole proceedings of the Senate against the President, and against the Postmaster General. The House was the grand inquest of the nation for the investigation. He contrasted his own forbearance in regard to the Bank of the United States, with the precipitate violence of the present majority against the Post Office. For eight years he had openly opposed the bank, and during all that time had a right to demand a committee of investigation, and during portions of that time he could have obtained a committee formed on parliamentary principles, with himself at the head of it as chairman; but he forebore to make the demand, because he thought it would be no difficulty as to the propriety on the mode of expurgating the Journal. The way it was to be done, was for the House to suspend all other business, and for the clerk to take his pen and obliterate the obnoxious passage altogether. He said he should move upon that Journal, with the power and precision of a steam engine; that nothing should throw him out of his track, (now burst his boiler, I suppose,) and that the time for the movement was not far ahead,—not so far as he thought it was at the close of the last session, when he gave notice of his intention. The Alabama resolutions were laid on the table, to be taken up when Mr. King and Mr. Benton have got their resolutions ready.

in regard to the President and the post office,—if they do really intend to uphold the abuses of the post office,—as it would seem they do. In the same debate an episode in regard to the post office occurred. Mr. Calhoun said it was due to the people, not one in a thousand of whom could ever see or read the voluminous documents connected with the post office affairs, that the Senate should pass a declaratory resolution by unanimous vote,—for he could not suppose that any one here would uphold the post office in its flagrant abuses, for the purpose of letting the people know that there was one department of the General Government which condemned and disavowed the corrupt administration of the concerns of that institution. You will see that such a resolution has been introduced, and its consideration postponed for the present. Mr. King, of Alabama, in reply, spoke doubtfully as to the fact of the existence of any improper practices in the post office, but if any should be proved to exist, he allowed that it was reasonable and proper to take measures to prevent their recurrence. But he did not think it comported with the dignity of the Senate to dash at once into the discussion, and denounce the Department before the Reports were well understood and digested. It is to be apprehended that if we wait for Mr. King and his friends to digest the report of the Post Office Committee, the Department will come to a dead stand still.

From the National Intelligencer of Monday.

Since the publication of our paper of Saturday last, information, which has reached us from various quarters, leaves no doubt of the insanity of Lawrence, the unhappy individual who attempted to discharge two pistols at the President of the United States, in the portico of the Capitol, on Friday. The persons who know him are not surprised at the occurrence, and would hardly have been surprised at any thing he had done or attempted. He has, it appears, fancied himself, to be some other person than himself; to have mistaken his own identity; or at least to have misunderstood his relations with the rest of the world. When being conducted from the Capitol to the Marshal's Office, he answered to the questions as to his motive, that he had intended to kill General Jackson because General Jackson had killed his father. When asked again, how Gen. Jackson had killed his father, he would answer nothing. His father, we heard, died a natural death, in this District, some ten or twelve years ago. The answer was, of course, the effect of the hallucination, under the influence of which he attempted the outrage upon the person of the President.

We have had the curiosity to ask, whether he was any thing of a politician, thinking that he perhaps might be politically insane, as persons are sometimes religiously so. We were informed that he was never known to have talked or thought about politics. His acquaintances seem to think that he thought himself entitled to be King or Governor of this country, or something of that sort, and brooded over the notion that Gen. Jackson stood in his way. It is certain that he inquired the evening before, of some one, whether the President would be at the funeral, and was answered in the affirmative. His being at the Capitol armed, was, therefore, almost certainly, the work of premeditation.

After committing the above to paper, we were politely favored with the following authentic statement made by a highly intelligent Magistrate of this city, who has taken the trouble personally to investigate the question of Lawrence's insanity:

Washington, 31st Jan. 1835.

I have made all the inquiries I could, to-day, in regard to the unhappy man (Lawrence) who made the attempt yesterday upon the life of Gen. Jackson, and the result has been a perfect conviction, upon my mind, of his absolute insanity.

I went first to the house where he boarded. He had not been there long, but one of the boarders said he had been some time convinced that he was not of sane mind, and that he had previously mentioned it. He boarded at Mr. Shield's, near the Unitarian Church, but did not keep his clothes or any thing else there. Nothing was known there of his having had pistols.

2d. I went to Mr. R.'s in the west end of the city, who married a sister of Lawrence's. Both he and his wife told me that they had no doubt of Lawrence's mind being more or less unsettled for eighteen months past. They gave as evidence of it, first, that about that time, he had left here, with the avowed intention of going to England, and had proceeded to New-York, where he remained some time, and then returned, saying that the ship-owners had all entered into a combination against him, and had refused to give him a passage to England; that they knew he had a large fortune there, and that their object was to prevent his getting away, so that they might possess themselves of it.

Some time ago Lawrence attempted to kill his sister, (Mrs. R.) and her husband had him arrested and confined for a while in jail. He did not reside with them, and, indeed, had harbored such a resentment against Mr. R. that he did not speak with him. They did not know of his having pistols of late, but Mrs. R. says he formerly had a pair of small brass pistols, which had belonged to their father;—they had flint, but she had heard that he wanted to get them altered to be used with the percussion lock. She thinks if she saw them she could say whether those he used were the same.

Lawrence had a shop where he did his painting. Mr. Drury had a room adjoining this, and the latter says that for a long time he has observed L. to be very solitary; taciturn in regard to his intercourse with others, but very much given to talking to himself.—He has heard him declare that he should be Richard the Third, King of England, and King of America. These declarations were so well known that the boys were in the habit of calling him "King Richard," and of late that he has threatened the boys, and even driven them out of his presence.

Drury says, that yesterday morning he was in his shop talking incoherently, and he heard him, all at once, slam down the lid of a box, and exclaim in a very audible tone, "I'll be damned if I don't do it." This was but a little while before the funeral.

To-day the sister of Lawrence called at the jail to see him, and to the inquiry why he had committed the rash act, he said "It was all right; General Jackson was his servant, but had not done as he wished, and ought to be punished."

I could mention many other circumstances, but these, I am sure, will carry conviction to your mind that the man committed the desperate act of yesterday, under the influence of mental derangement.

In Senate, Monday, Feb. 2.

Mr. Calhoun then rose, and requested the Secretary to read a paragraph from a newspaper which he sent to the table. The Secretary then read from the Globe of Saturday the following paragraph:

"Whether Lawrence has caught, in his visits to the Capitol, the man who has prevailed during the two last sessions in the Senate—whether he has become infatuated with the chimeras which had troubled the brains of the disappointed and ambitious orators who have depicted the President as a Caesar who ought to have a Brutus—a Cromwell—a Nero—a Tiberius, we know not. If no secret conspiracy has prompted the perpetration of the horrid deed, we think it not improbable that some delusion of intellect has grown out of his visits to the Capitol, and that hearing despair and every horrible mischief threatened to the Republic, and revolution in all its train of calamities, he has made perfect roteness and corruption to provide the victim of the Government—inasmuch, that it was scarcely worth preserving, if it were possible."

Mr. Calhoun rose to make a few remarks, not so much in reference to himself, for that was of little importance, as on the political bearing of the paragraph from the official Government paper, which had just been read to the Senate. There were some things, which, taken in themselves, were of so little importance as not to be entitled to notice, but which, standing in connection with other matters, were frequently of great importance, and demanded attention. Whatever might be the character of the paper (the Globe) from which the paragraph just read had been taken; however low, however degraded its character might be, it was yet known to be the organ of the Executive will; and that it was sustained, pampered by, and dependent upon, that branch of the Government; and in commenting on a paragraph like the present, in which the Executive was personally concerned, it was not an unfair presumption to conclude that it had had his sanction; had been authorized by him. To pass over the personal insinuations, which, as he had observed, were unworthy of notice, he (Mr. C.) would say a few words on the new political principle set forth in the paragraph. It was impossible to read the article, and not see that it went on the ground, that whosoever condemns what he believes conscientiously to be the abuses and corruptions of this Government, was to be held up in the light of an instigator of assassination; and that no uncertainty on this point might be left on the mind of the reader, the article referred to a particular transaction in which he (Mr. Calhoun) was personally concerned. He would not condescend to defend himself in relation to the matters contained in the paragraph that had been read;—they needed no defence. What were the facts? The Senate were in debate on the Post Office reports. The Post Office, it was acknowledged, on all hands, stood convicted of enormous abuses, not to say corruptions. He had risen, in his place, to comment generally on the abuses thus exhibited; he had made no personal allusions whatsoever. He spoke of the corruptions of the times, and of them mainly; though this he did say, that the evil was not so much to be attributed to any defect in the working of the machinery as in the administration itself. Yet these general denunciations, in these broad terms, as asserted by the Government Official here, as warranting an individual to make this attempt at assassination. Could he have wantonly said that he would be little better than an assassin. What! to hold up abuses to instigate assassination! To what was the authority of this body reduced? or attempted to be reduced? According to the new doctrines, the Senate was to look silently on, when these corruptions and abuses were passing beneath their eyes, because, forsooth, they might ultimately be called on to express their opinions in their judicial character.

This body, then, dare not express opinions, and if they do express them, they may be called on to expunge their recorded sentiments from the Journal of the Senate. Then, what next? No individual Senator is to be permitted to express any opinion as to a particular individual, lest he be held up to the world as the instigator of assassination! General denunciations of misconduct, corruptions or abuses, were to be held up as indicating assassination! Could they mistake the tendency of this? Did they not see clearly as the light of Heaven, the march of irresponsible power? Did it not confirm what he (Mr. C.) observed but the other day, that a stage had been reached in our political affairs that must result in reformation or revolution? He saw around him, in the ranks of the Administration, many old friends and acquaintances, whose patriotism and whose attachment to the institutions of their country, could not be mistaken. He asked them to look, to see what were coming to, to see what was the melancholy result of this state of things. The degradation of parties, and the consequent growth of an irresponsible power. He understood the evils to which the country had arrived. He knew the danger to be incurred by exposing abuses existing in the Executive branch of the Government. He asked no favors—he was no candidate. He desired no office. He would say, as an honest, conscientious man, who loved the institutions of his country, that he would do his duty in spite of menace, come from what quarter it would, or in spite of fate.

The Case of Richard Lawrence.—It is now apparent that the partisans of Mr. Van Buren intend to make the most of this unfortunate man. Desirous to form an opinion for ourselves, we yesterday called at the jail, for the purpose of seeing and conversing with him.—We ascertained that orders had been given that the guards should be doubled, that their muskets should be loaded, and that all intercourse with the prisoner was forbidden. Denied access to the prisoner himself, we applied to his relations and acquaintances, and learn that he is the son of English parents, who emigrated to this city when he was a child; that he was apprenticed to a painter (who is now practising as a leech doctor) in this city, and who was examined as a witness on the trial; that he was a remarkably industrious, sober, discreet boy, and a kind and affectionate brother; that he formed an attachment to a young lady, and frequently told his sister that he would by his industry soon be enabled to buy a corner lot near her, and build on it a good house, when he would marry the object of his attachment—and with this view, he labored day and night until he had by him about eight hundred dollars. He was disappointed—became extremely pensive—quit all employment—standing for hours gazing upon the spot which he had selected as his future residence.

His brother-in-law, with whom he lived, endeavored to persuade him to resume his work—he said that he would go to England; that he had something of great importance which demanded his presence, and in the fall of 1833 went to New-York for the purpose of taking passage from that port. During the winter he returned, saying that he found the papers filled with notices of his contemplated enterprise, and that he could get no captain to take him on board. In the spring of 1834, he again went as far as Philadelphia—put up at the mansion house, kept his room, or else would stand for hours on the porch, engaged in deep thought, without speaking to any one. After a few days he returned to Washington, and said that he found that his purpose of going over to England was known, that none of the captains would consent to take him on board, but that he would soon have a vessel of his own—that he had engaged men who would put all things right. About this time he became very quarrelsome, and his relatives were afraid to keep him in the house.—His brother-in-law endeavored to persuade him to go to work, which he obstinately refused to do, saying that his hands would do no more work; that others might work, but as for him, he would soon have money enough. At length he committed an assault upon his sister, for which he was handed over to the officers of justice, and lodged in jail. The case was carried before the Grand Jury at its late session, which has just closed, and after an examination of witnesses who knew him, the Grand Jury refused to find a bill against him, on the ground of his insanity.—U. S. Tele.

A correspondent of the National Intelligencer, thus accounts for the pistols used by Lawrence missing fire, though the caps exploded: "I have a pair of percussion pistols in my possession. For a week after I bought them I could not make them go off. The percussion cap would explode, but the charge would not ignite. After reflecting for some time as to the cause, I discovered it. The powder had not traversed the tube leading to the cap. In order to be satisfied that I was right in this conjecture, I made repeated experiments. I poured the powder slowly into the barrel of the pistol; and before ramming it down, shook the barrel well, in order that the powder might penetrate through the small tube leading to the percussion cap. The charge never failed to ignite with this precaution, which I repeated several times. I then loaded my pistols as I had formerly done; putting the powder and ball in together; ramming both down hard, but without shaking the barrel. The charge did not ignite more than twice in twenty trials.

This peculiarity of the percussion pistol is well known by those who are in the habit of using them, but I presume not generally known by others. It has evidently not been known by the infatuated individual in this case."

This explanation proves—first, that the President is indebted for his escape to the ignorance alone of the world he assassin; second, that his purpose must have been all his own; for if there had been others concerned in the base attempt, some one of them would have known of this peculiarity of the percussion pistol, and guarded against it.

THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

In the debate on the Post Office Report, in the U. S. Senate, last week, Mr. Calhoun made some spirited remarks, which are worthy of extensive circulation:

He hoped some Senator would present a resolution giving some character to these developments. He listened to the report with sorrow and the deepest mortification. He had been twenty-two years connected with this government, and in all that time the charges of corruption against all the departments of the government, that he had ever heard, were not equal to the disclosures here made. The exhibition would disgrace the rottenness of the Roman Republic. He hoped every Senator would be called on in his place to say whether he sanctioned it. The guilt of the Department was unquestionable, and it remained to be seen whether any Senator here would defend it, and identify himself with it. If he could, and the public sentiment could bear it, and the President could bear it, and the people would submit to it, there was end to freedom.—He hoped some gentleman would look into the subject, and propose some resolution suitable to the occasion.

After some remarks by Messrs. Cuthbert and Benton, the South Carolina Senator resumed his remarks.

Mr. Calhoun replied, that he was surprised that honorable gentlemen should make this a party question. The minority themselves did not think so. Who ever dreamed of making it a party question? If any party wished to identify themselves with these corruptions, let them step forth. Here were volumes of documents which not one-hundredth part of the people would read, and they must receive an impression with regard to them from what we did here. What he said was, that the people should know the opinions of Senators here on this subject; and how were they to know them, but by the incorporation of their sentiments in a resolution for the action of this body? Did the Hon. gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Cuthbert) wish to identify himself with the Post Office and its management? He could not believe he did. On hearing the report read, he (Mr. C.) felt a deep and profound melancholy, that so much rottenness should have found its way into a department in so short a time. And the expression of opinion he suggested, was the only way in which it could meet the people of this Union. If a diversity of opinion existed, it was due to the Senate that it should be done; and if no one would present a resolution he would move it. He was not to be deterred from it by any fear of consequences whatever. His object was that the people should know what impression this report made here.

Mr. Preston, speaking of the frauds in the

Post-Office Department, said that even the minority report admitted, that in one instance more than one hundred thousand had been wrongfully, if not fraudulently paid to a contractor for carrying the mails, and that in another instance twelve thousand dollars had been paid in like manner.

Mr. Hill said that the out-door impressions were, that the officers of the post office had not had a fair trial.

Mr. Mangum called the gentleman to order. The Vice President directed the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. Hill) to take his seat, which he did very tamely, and "spoke no more."

Mr. Ewing expressed a wish, that the gentleman (Hill) might be permitted to proceed, as he was sure nobody would take any notice of what he said.

The Post Office seems to be abandoned by those it has served so faithfully, and given up to the buffeting of a "merciless opposition." Hill is its only defender—and he has not the force of a pine shingle.

In the debate in the House of Representatives on the bill for the relief of the city of Alexandria, Mr. Hawes (of Ky.) uttered the following plesantry, which, however meant, is biting sarcasm on a party which acknowledges the hog, as its emblem:

Mr. Hawes said, his honorable friend from North Carolina, (Mr. Spright) had sounded the administration trumpet, and called upon all the friends of the administration to come forward and resist this attempt at extravagant expenditure, and as Mr. H. held himself to be as good an administration man as any gentleman upon that floor, he felt bound to obey the summons of the trumpet. He was, however, somewhat afraid it would turn out like the case of a man in the western country celebrated for raising hogs, who was in the habit every morning of calling them, and when they came up he gave them nothing to eat. At last they refused to come at his call, and the man swore he would change the breed of his hogs, because they refused to obey his summons. (Laughter.) But Mr. H. agreed with his honorable friend, and he would give his reason for it.

The cashier of the Perth Amboy Bank was awakened on Monday morning about 4 o'clock, by the barking of a dog. Getting up he discovered that the counting room of the bank had been robbed, and collecting together a number of young men, they started in pursuit of the robber, till getting on his track, they followed him from Woodbridge to Rahway, Elizabethtown and Newark. By this time they were convinced that the robber was a man named Jefferson Huddy, a native of Babylon, L. I. and lately of Rahway, N. J.; following on to this city, they discovered him at the Washington Lunch, where he was arrested by Sparks. All that he took from the bank was a few counterfeit bills, which would have been of no use had he escaped. On entering the room where he was confined, a few hours after he had been committed, he was found lying on the floor, his face covered with blood. It appears he had attempted to hang himself with his comforter, which broke, and it is supposed finding no other way of effecting his existence he attempted to dash his brains out against the walls of his prison.—He was so far recovered in the afternoon of the day as to be placed in a coach, and carried to the steamboat to convey him to Amboy. The motion of the coach restored him so much as to be enabled to stand by the time he reached the boat.—N. Y. Star.

An Albany Regency Justice of the Peace, Horatio Merchant, Esq. lately married an Irish girl to a full blooded negro. The mob, it seems, took the matter in hand, and blackened his face.

Wonderful Sagacity.—One day last week when the crowd of fashionable was greatest at the Union street exhibition, a beautiful girl who had fed the elephant with sundry cakes and apples, in taking an apple from her bag drew out her ivory card case, which fell unobserved in the sawdust of the ring. At the close of the ring performance, the crowd opened to let the elephant pass to his recess, but instead of proceeding as usual, he turned aside and thrust his trunk into the midst of a group of ladies and gentlemen, who as might be expected were so much alarmed that they scattered in every direction. The keeper, at this moment discovered that the animal had something in his trunk. Upon examination he found it to be the lady's card case, which the elephant had picked up, and was only seeking out the fair owner when he, unceremoniously, as the company at first thought, extended his trunk among them.—Bos. Atlas.

Shocking Accident, and Caution.—A most shocking accident occurred on Saturday last in Holliston, about 20 miles from this city.—Some individuals had assembled together on the ice, for the purpose of preparing a clam feast. A man by the name of Rice, residing in the town, was invited to partake with them. He at first declined, but on being repeatedly urged, accepted. The men had procured a small arivel, near the spot, which they fired at intervals. Rice charged it with powder, and not having any warning of his danger, in the mouth of the gun some light snow, which he thought would answer the purpose. He applied the torch, and the arivel was shattered to pieces, and Rice instantly killed, his head and body being most shockingly mangled by the fragments. Mr. Rice was 37 years of age, a man of good character, and had been married only six months.—Bos. Jour.

How to get a bargain.—Pretend on entering a shop, that you have already purchased and are afraid you have been cheated. Fifty to one the shopkeeper tries to convince you of the fact, by offering his own goods at half price.—Buy them.

Serious Fire.—The large stables belonging to Samuel Johnson, in Medford, Mass. were entirely destroyed by fire on Saturday night last, and sixteen horses perished in the flames. Loss about \$4000. A man has been taken into custody upon the suspicion of his being the incendiary.

Slavery in Kentucky.—The resolution to submit to the people the call of a convention to amend the constitution of Kentucky, so as to introduce the gradual abolition of slavery, was lost in the Senate, 18 to 19.